

Belmont Council on Aging
Board Meeting
June 3, 2012

Attendance: J. Semuels, chair; M. Cahalane; V. DeNovellis; E. Hamann; C.M. Hegarty;
A. Lougee; Allan Morgan; M. Scali; P. Schafer; T. Olson; N. Niv-Vogel, Director
Absent: A. Mullin

- Joel Semuels convened the meeting at 7:32 pm.

- 3 Senior concerns – none.

- Minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting were reviewed and accepted as amended.

- General Announcements:
COA Board Training by Emmett Schmarsow, Program Manager for Councils on Aging and Senior Centers of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs took place at the Beech Street Center. Those who attended felt the session was excellent. Suggestions we should consider included:
 - Having persons who go on COA trips use the Files for Life system so that their emergency information (contacts, medicines, etc.) would be readily available if needed. Nava has discussed attaining Files for Life with the Fire Department, who said that the program is worthwhile and will move forward with obtaining them.
 - d Displaying pictures of Board members and other volunteers at the Senior Center. Maybe take group photos at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner later this month.
 - 7 Providing all Board members with a copy of Schmarsow’s handout listing the responsibilities of COA Boards, and ways to avoid pitfalls.Those attending the presentation reported that EOEA considers transportation of seniors to be the #1 need, and COA’s should view providing it as part of the town’s public safety responsibility.

- 8 Updates and Correspondence
 - 6 Director’s Report – in addition to her written report, Nava Niv-Vogel reported the following:
 - 9 The flat screen TV donated by the Brasco Family has been received and will be mounted in Classroom A.
 - g** The town’s Medicare Preferred Provider – Tufts – has offered to donate a TV to the Fitness Room. The size will depend on where it is mounted. The Board asked Nava to speak to the Cable Access Committee to see if a second free TV cable connection could be provided.
 - g** New BelderBus has been delivered and will be on the road soon. There will be a “ribbon cutting” and press event to celebrate its arrival. The town will sell the old BelderBus.

g Rental income is expected to be \$11,000 this year, more than originally expected. The custodial staff have been providing very good attention to the renters, which the renters appreciate.

1 The new Coordinator, Dena Ressler, will start work next Monday.

1 There was power failure through-out the Waverley area last Thursday and the Senior Center was affected for about one hour. A woman in a wheelchair had to be helped down from the second floor, because the elevator does not operate during power outages. If the elevator is in operation when a power outage occurs, it goes to the first floor and the doors open so that no one will be trapped in the elevator. However, it cannot be sent up to the second floor to retrieve people during an outage.

e Springwell – Neil Hegarty reported that;

g The search for a new Executive Director is moving forward. They have received 130-140 resumes from all over the country

g Springwell has its own full-time Quality Assurance Officer. Their QA program does not simply measure units of output (like number of hours) but really measures the impacts of their programs, including whether people are sustaining their improvements.

g The state budget has increased slightly the funds available for protective services – otherwise elder services are level funded.

1 Fitness Room – About 60 people are signed up to use the equipment. The Board re-affirmed its decisions to wait until the fall before considering whether to allow non-Belmont residents to enroll in the fitness program. This will allow time to assess whether there is capacity for non-residents. The Belmont Media Center will be making a video of fitness programs at the Center which will be on the COA website.

d FY13 Budget – Town Meeting approved the COA budget that included additional funds for extended hours of transportation on Tuesday, if needed. Funds for a COA summer-time social worker were not included in the budget, and no social work interns are available this summer, so Director Niv-Vogel will act as COA social worker for the summer months.

e Neighborhood Open House was a success. Thanks to all Board members for their help, and thanks to Phyl Solomon for providing the flowers. This is an event that we should do periodically.

f Two long-time Board members will be “retiring” at the end of June: Neil Hegarty and Anne Lougee. Dr. Michael Cahalane has asked to be re-appointed. Anyone who would like to serve on the COA Board should submit their resume to the Selectmen.

g Transportation Study Working Group will be working over the summer to gather information on the Senior transportation services provided by neighboring towns.

h Bocce Courts. Maryann Scali reported that she has sent a proposal to the Friends of the COA for their consideration at their Thursday meeting. She has asked for \$6,000, which includes benches and scoreboard.

6 New Business:

6 Potential Transportation Contribution. Director Niv-Vogel has contacted the Community Health Coordinator at Mt. Auburn Hospital to ask if the hospital might consider donating funds to the COA. Mt. Auburn Hospital is our transportation system's single most frequent destination. The hospital will consider this and get back to Nava. Director Niv-Vogel noted that Lahey donates funds to the Burlington COA. The Board supports this initiative and passed the following sense of the Board:

The COA Board supports Director Niv-Vogel efforts to explore with area hospitals various funding options to mitigate the transportation costs of Belmont Seniors.

Motion made by Joel Semuels and seconded by Neil Hegarty. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

e Annual Director Evaluation. A working group of Ethel Hamann, Neil Hegarty, Anne Lougee and Joel Semuels will meet in June.

1 Neil Hegarty and Ann Lougee were recognized and thanked for their service to the COA. Each has served on the COA Board for 9 years and they provided a wide range of extremely valuable skills and services to the COA. Anne said the experience has been very rewarding and she was reluctant to step down. However, she will continue to stay involved as the liaison between the School Committee and the COA. Neil spoke of the wonderful series of events that had occurred while he was on the Board. The generosity of the Board in terms of the time they were willing to devote to the COA was truly impressive. Anne and Neil were each given a plaque to commemorate their service and cake was enjoyed by all.

d The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next Board meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Monday, July 9, 2012 at the beech Street Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Schafer

June 2012 Recorder